

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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LIMDIS

FODAG

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, FAO, AORG
SUBJ: FAO: APRIL 17 ROME GENEVA GROUP (GGR) CALL ON DG

1. AS WE ANTICIPATED, ADG WEST HAS BEEN CHECKING WITH DG TIMING AND NATURE OF HIS CONSULTATION WITH GGR ON BUDGET METHODOLOGY. IT APPEARS CLEAR FROM HIS REPORT OF DG REACTIONS THAT IF GGR CO-CHAIRMEN SEEK DG AUTHORIZATION FOR GGR CONSULTATIONS ON BUDGET METHODOLOGY, DG WILL REGARD THIS A GROUP INITIATIVE WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE BALANCED WITH GROUP-77. HE WOULD BE INCVINED HANDLE THIS VIA MORE-OR-LESS FORMAL BRIEFINGS OF BOTH GROUPS, EITHER TOGETHER OR SEPARATELY.

2. WEST IS PREPARED TO RECEIVED SERIES OF INFORMAL CALLS BY SEVERAL FAO MEMBERS. HE NOW MAKE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD THEY CALL IN CONTECT OF FAO EXCHANGE OF VIEW OR INFORMATION WITH GGR, WEST CONSULTATION WITH DG AND CONTRAINTS BY DG WILL ENSUE.

3. DG MOOD, WHICH HE CONTINUES TO REPORT AS IRRITABLE WITH RESPECT TO OUR CALL, HAS NOT BEEN HELPED BY JACK ANDERSON
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COLUMN, PRINTED APRIL 8 IN ROME DAILY AMERICAN, WHICH DG BELIEVES IS RESULT OF DELIBERATE LEAK TO ANDERSON BY SOME "ANTI-FAO" ELEMENTS IN WASHINGTON WHO HE BELIEVES RESPONSIBLE FOR PARAGRAPH IN BOURNE REPORT CRTITCAL OF FAO. BAKER TOLD WEST THAT IT WAS RIDICULOUS, GIVEN ANDERSON NETWORK, TO ASSUME THAT AN IFEA FROM A WIDELY DISTRIBUTED UNCLASSIFIED MEMO HAD TO BE PLANTED ON HIM. FURTHERMORE, BOURNE REPORT

HAD TO BE VIEWED AS AN EFFORT TO STIR ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES, FIRST OF ALL U.S. AGENCIES WHICH HE ALSO CRITICIZED, INTO GREATER ACTION, CONCERN AND COORDINATION AND THAT REMARKS ON FAO HAD TO BE SEEN IN THAT CONTEXT. FINALLY, HE OBSERVED THAT DG WOULD DO BETTER TO LOOK FOR OFFICIAL U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS EFFORTS IN FAO IN SECRETARY BERGLAND'S FAO CONFERENCE SPEECH AND AMB. GARDNER'S ROME ADDRESS ON HUNGER PROBLEM APRIL 12 TO S.I. O.E. WEST NOTED THAT HE HAD DRAWN POSITIVE GARDNER REMARKS ON FAO TO DG'S ATTENTION.

4. BAKER NOTED THAT IF DG FEELS HE AND FAO NOT PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON, UPCOMING AID-FAO TALKS GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE FAO IMAGE. WEST RESPONDED THAT DG IN MOOD THAT NOTHING HE CAN DO VIS-A-VIS WASHINGTON SEEMS TO HELP. BAKER NOTED THAT TRAIL TO BROKEN DIPLOMATIC CHINA DG LEAVES BEHIND IN HIS TRAVELS CERTAINLY DOES NOT HELP AND WEST COULD ONLY ASSENT.

5. COMMENT: OUR PRESENT INCLINATION, GIVEN OUR DESIRE TO GET INTO USEFUL EXCHANGE WITH WEST IS SIMPLY TO START AT IT, ON HIS TERMS, TOGETHER WITH ONE OR TWO OTHER REPS AND KEEP GGR POSTED. IN THIS SCENARIO, WE WOULD NOT REQUEST DG TO BLESS OR AUTHORIZE THE EXCHANGE SINCE THAT WILL EVIDENTLY YIELD A LESS USEFUL EXCHANGE. GIVEN DG'S SENSITIVITIES ABOUT EVALUATION AS SOME KIND OF A WEAPON THAT CAN BE TURNED AGAINST HIM, WE PLAN GOING AT THIS RATHER LIGHTLY AS WELL,
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TAKING NOTE OF FAO EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO ACC ENDORSEMENT OF J.I.U. RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. MAIN THRUST THEREFORE SHOULD BE TO (1) REMIND DG OF GGR CONCERNS - AS EXPRESSED AT FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER AT UNGA, AND AT WHO; (2) NOTE THAT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN DONOR COUNTRIES HAVE IN NO WAY DIMINISHED OUR EMPHASIS; (3) COMPLIMENT DG ON HIS COST-CONSCIOUSNESS AND ASK HIM HOW HE PRESENTLY FORESEES BUDGET OUTLOOK FOR NEXT BIENNIUM, WHERE PRINCIPAL PRESSURES FOR REAL COST INCREASE WILL COME FROM, AND HOW HE INTENDS TO DEAL WITH THEM; (4) QUERY HIM, AS DISCUSSION EVOLVES, ON METHODS AND MECHANISMS FOR DETERMINING AREAS FOR SAVINGS TO SEE WHAT HE SAYS RE (A) EVALUATION; AND (B) COUNTRY REP PROGRAM, SLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE PROGRAM SAVINGS IN LAST BIENNIUM AND, WE HOPE, COULD DO LIKEWISE IN PRESENT AND COMING BIENNIUM. GARDNER

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